

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for meeting of December 1, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, Ted Packard, and Scott Smith. Steven Quinn, Pete Howard, Lauren Hefferon, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved with two minor wording corrections.

Introductions and stories. Jack summarized the MassBike annual meeting in Boston and told us about the indoor stationary bike races.

Update on proposed bike-rack locations for 2009 installations, eligible for the MAPC grant program. The ABAC board approved the list of locations for bike racks via email. We discussed additional potential sites on Broadway. Joey told us that we will have to present the list of sites to the Board of Selectmen as they control all installations on the sidewalks. Joey asked the Town Counsel to check about potential liability issues concerning the racks. Joey also told us about plans for a rack installation at the MBTA bus depot in Arlington Heights, which MBTA is handling.

Brief discussion of proposed regional bike-sharing program. Jack and Joey are involved in the planning stage of a regional bike-sharing program. Joey filled us in on the details. The first phase will start in Boston with about 450 bikes. Scott told us how the system works in Paris. Jack added that a similar system will be used in the Boston area. Lauren thought that we should make local businesses aware of these plans. She suggested that we could make a presentation in front of the Chamber of Commerce.

Proposal for group project-tracking system for ABAC. We have many projects ongoing and some are falling through the cracks. We need a checklist of some kind for each of the projects to make sure that all the details are attended to. Ted volunteered to set up a database in Google Docs.

ACTION ITEM: Ted will create a ABAC project database in Google Docs and invite us all to join.

Brief report on status of DCR Alewife Brook Greenway project. Joey brought us up to date on the last public meeting about the design of the Greenway. Nothing will be done on this project until the spring at the earliest. There is still some neighborhood distrust of the DCR that is slowing the planning.

Discussion on remediation of Spy Pond path (beside Rte. 2). Pete showed us a status report of the condition of the Spy Pond path. It is very unlikely that the Town will be able to pay for renovating this path. Pete is trying to determine other options. The path

has been surveyed and the extent of work has been outlined. Pete also told us that he felt that the renovations could be done by volunteers. The materials needed for the work would have to be donated.

MassHighway owns the path and has been unresponsive to pleas for its renovation. Jack suggested that we do a walk-through with some officials from MassHighway and discuss the project. Pete got reassurance from the committee that we support the renovation of the path.

Update on bicycling issues related to Safe Routes to School in Arlington; status report from Bicycling to School subcommittee. Lauren told us about a recent meeting with a subcommittee of the School Committee. The Superintendent, who was formerly in favor of biking to school, has changed her position about the safety issue. Lauren feels that the bottom line from the School Committee is that if Arlington is indeed unsafe for bicycling to school, it should be certified safe before they can endorse the idea.

There will be another meeting on December 16 where the advocates will present a program for a bicycling education program starting in one of the schools. They will present case studies of successful bike to school plans in other towns in the state and will outline the Cycle Kids and MasBike programs. Lauren thinks that an important leverage point on the side of bicycling to school is the potential health benefit.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.